

Usborne Nature Cards



Bugs



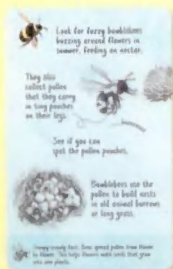
Usborne Nature Cards



Bugs

These colourful, fact-filled cards show 30 common bugs to spot and identify.

Charming pictures on the front of the cards make it easy to recognize each bug.



On the back, there are bug facts and detailed sketches.

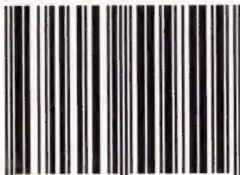
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Wasp

Thick, black
feelers or
antennae

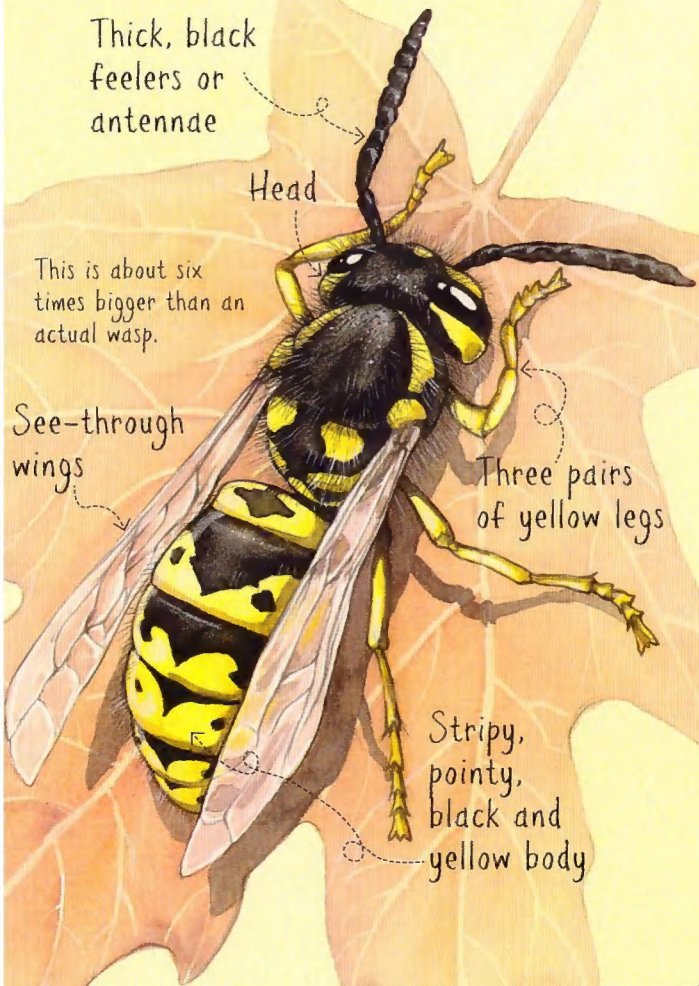
Head

This is about six
times bigger than an
actual wasp.

See-through
wings

Three pairs
of yellow legs

Stripy,
pointy,
black and
yellow body

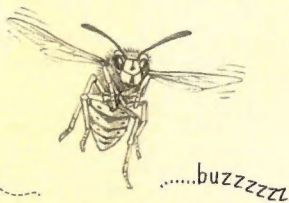




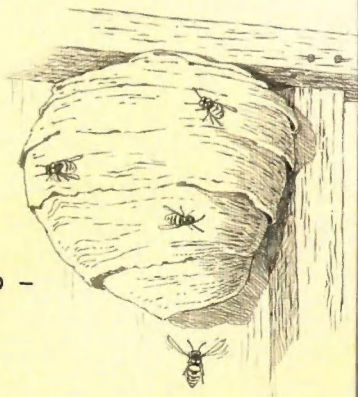
Wasps feed on nectar, fruit and insects. They also like sugary food and drink.



They make a buzzing sound while they fly.



Wasps build nests in dark places such as old animal burrows or garden sheds.

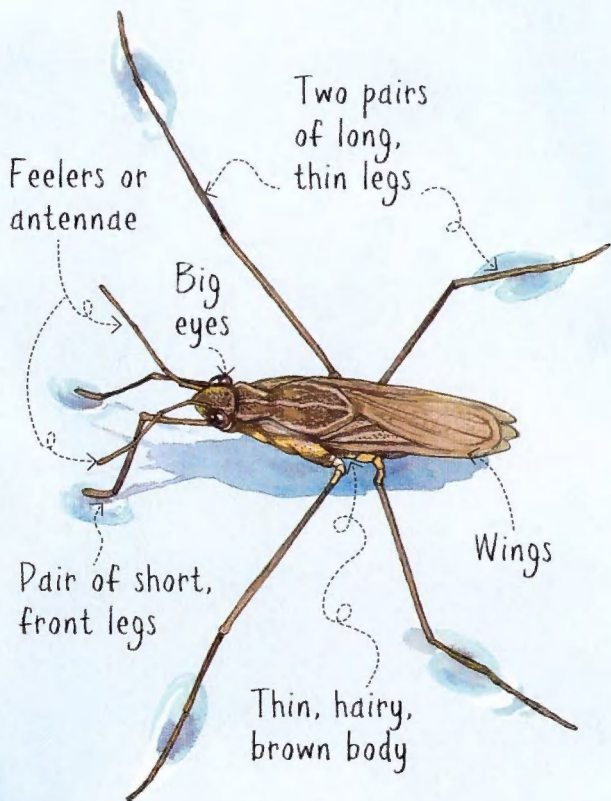


Don't disturb a wasp - it might sting you.



Creepy-crawly fact: Wasps' nests are made from chewed-up wood that they scrape off trees and fences.

Pond skater



This is about five times bigger than an actual pond skater.



Look for pond skaters floating on ponds and lakes in spring and summer.

They push themselves across the water using their long back legs.

Pond skaters eat insects. They wait until one drops onto the water, then grab it using their front legs.



You might also see them jumping or flying away from predators.



Creepy-crawly fact: Pond skaters are covered in tiny hairs that sense when an insect falls on the water.

Woodlouse

Feelers or antennae

This is about twice the size of an actual woodlouse.

Hard, shell-like, grey body

Seven pairs of legs

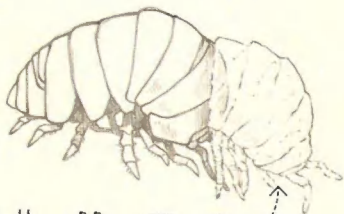




Look for woodlice in damp, dark places in parks or gardens.

If they're out in the open, they will quickly scuttle to find cover.

Woodlice shed their skin as they grow.



The old skin falls off, revealing new skin underneath.

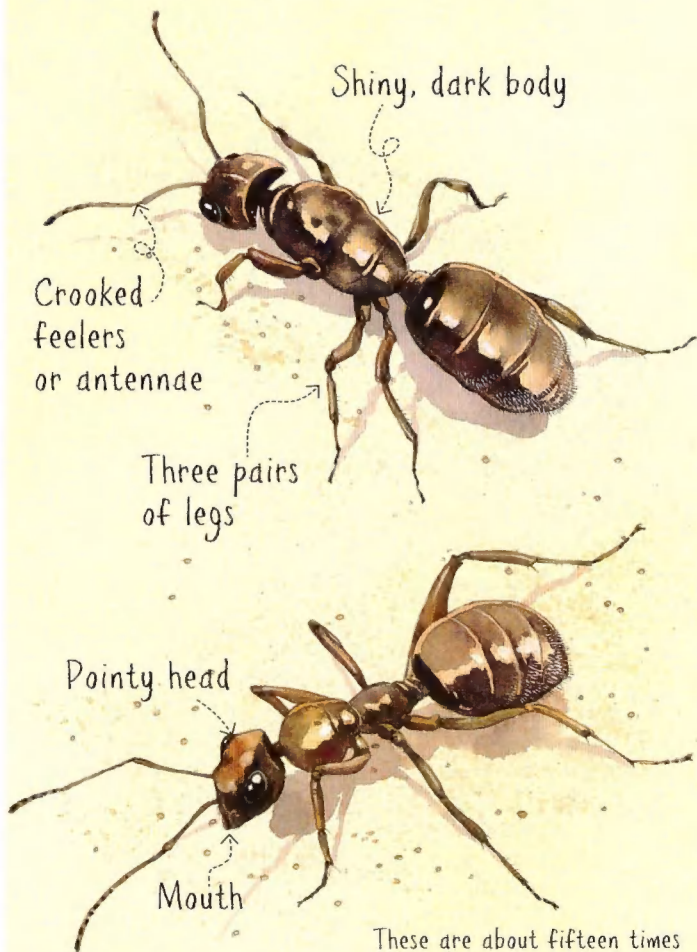


If you get too close to some types of woodlice, they roll up into balls to protect themselves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Some woodlice breathe through their legs.

Garden ant



These are about fifteen times bigger than actual ants.

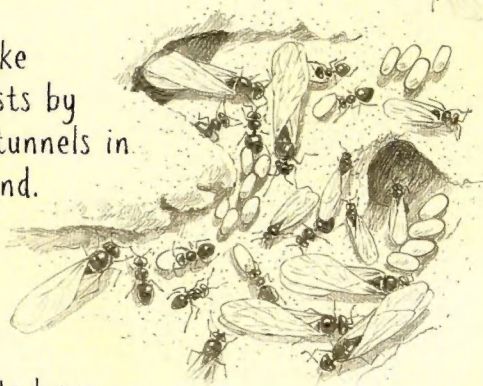


Look for ants scuttling around quickly on the ground.

They eat nectar, a sweet juice from flowers, and a sticky liquid made by insects called aphids.



Ants make their nests by digging tunnels in the ground.

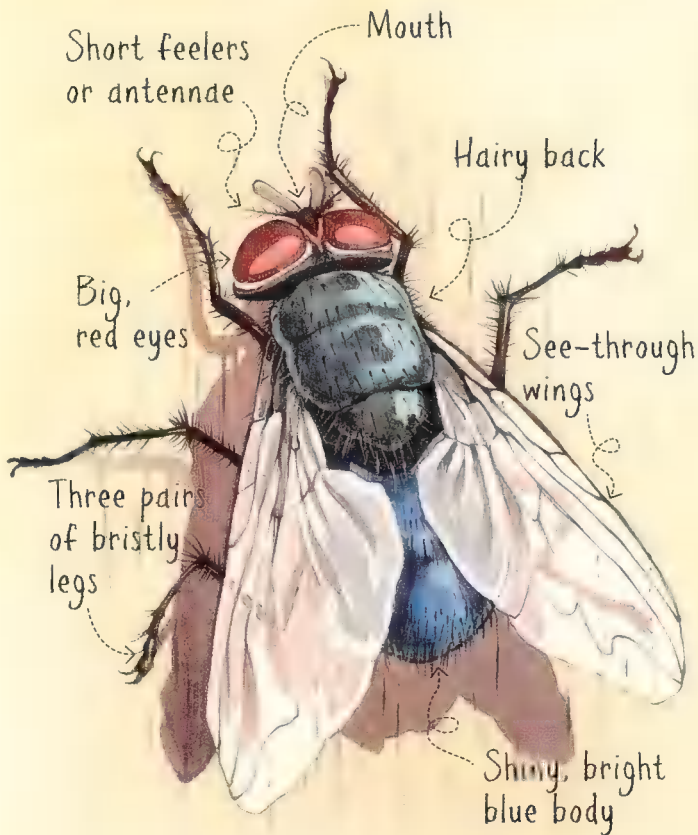


Male ants have wings. In late summer, they fly out of their nests in swarms.



Creepy-crawly fact: When an ant finds food, it leaves a smelly trail for other ants to follow.

Bluebottle



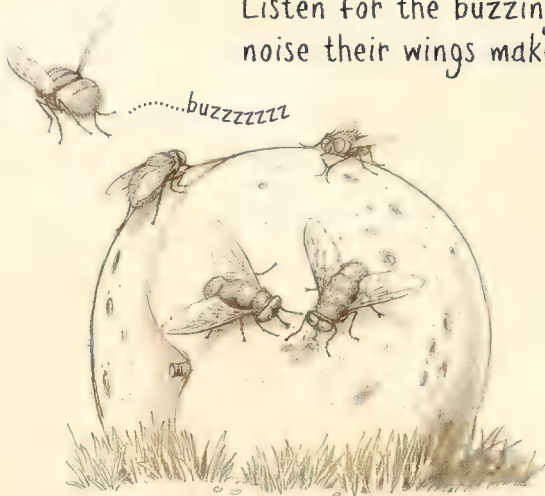
This is about five times bigger than an actual bluebottle.



Bluebottles are a type of fly.

You're likely to see them flying on a warm summer's day, looking for rotting food to eat.

Listen for the buzzing noise their wings make.



Bluebottles lay lots of eggs that hatch out into small, white young, called maggots.



Creepy-crawly fact: Bluebottle eggs can turn into adults in as little as 10 days.

Bumblebee

This is the same size as
an actual bumblebee.

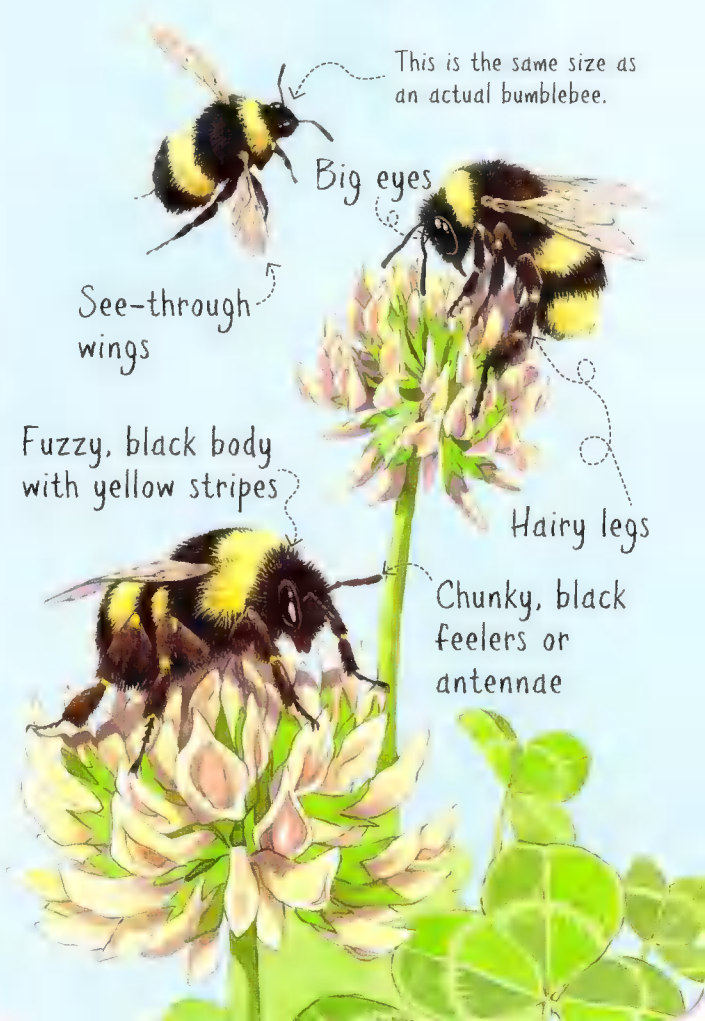
Big eyes

See-through
wings

Fuzzy, black body
with yellow stripes

Hairy legs

Chunky, black
feelers or
antennae





Look for fuzzy bumblebees buzzing around flowers in summer, feeding on nectar.

They also collect pollen that they carry in tiny pouches on their legs.



See if you can spot the pollen pouches.

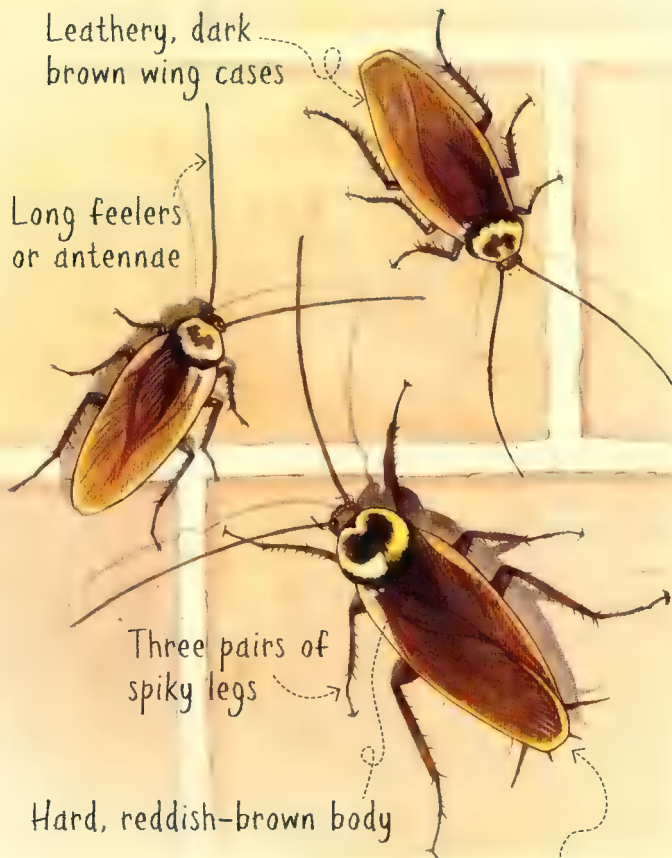


Bumblebees use the pollen to build nests in old animal burrows or long grass.



Creepy-crawly fact: Bees spread pollen from flower to flower. This helps flowers make seeds that grow into new plants.

Cockroach



This is the same size as
an actual cockroach.



Cockroaches live in warm, damp places. They often spend the winter inside buildings.

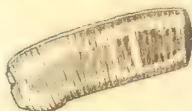
Look for them when they come out to feed at night. They eat almost anything.



Cockroaches can run very fast, and fly in hot weather.



Female cockroaches lay cases full of eggs every month.



Creepy-crawly fact: Cockroaches have been on the Earth for over 300 million years.

Clothes moth

Long, shiny,
coppery-brown
wings

Furry,
brown body

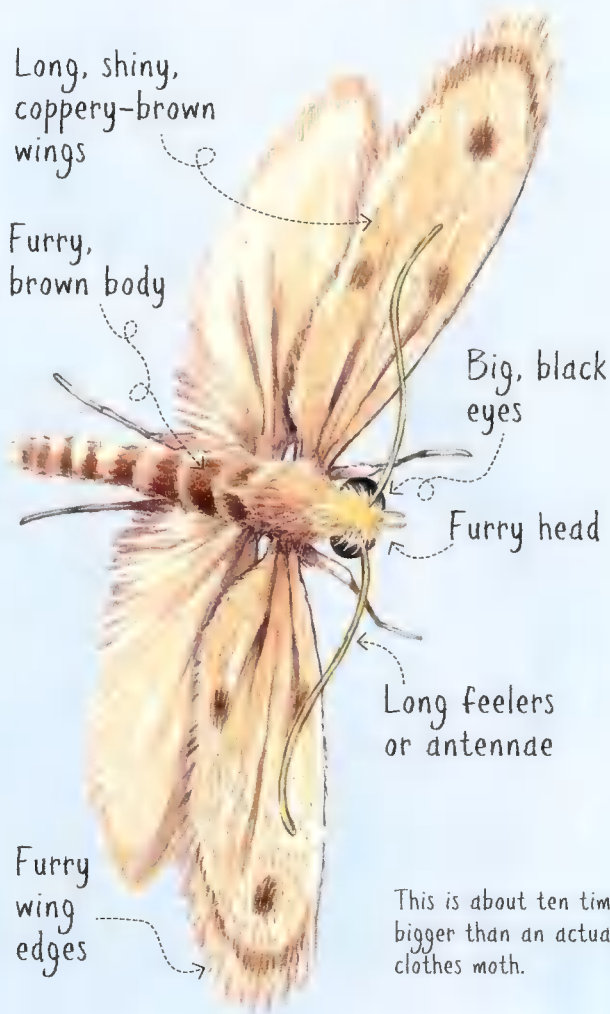
Big, black
eyes

Furry head

Long feelers
or antennae

Furry
wing
edges

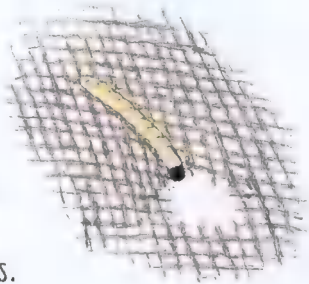
This is about ten times
bigger than an actual
clothes moth.





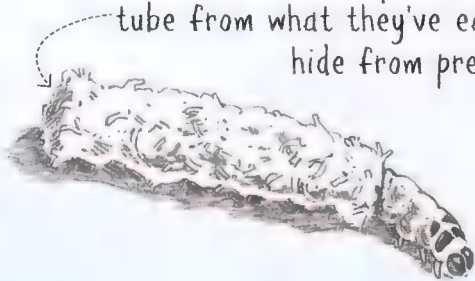
Clothes moths live in dark places, such as animal nests and in people's houses.

Their caterpillars have creamy bodies and brown heads.



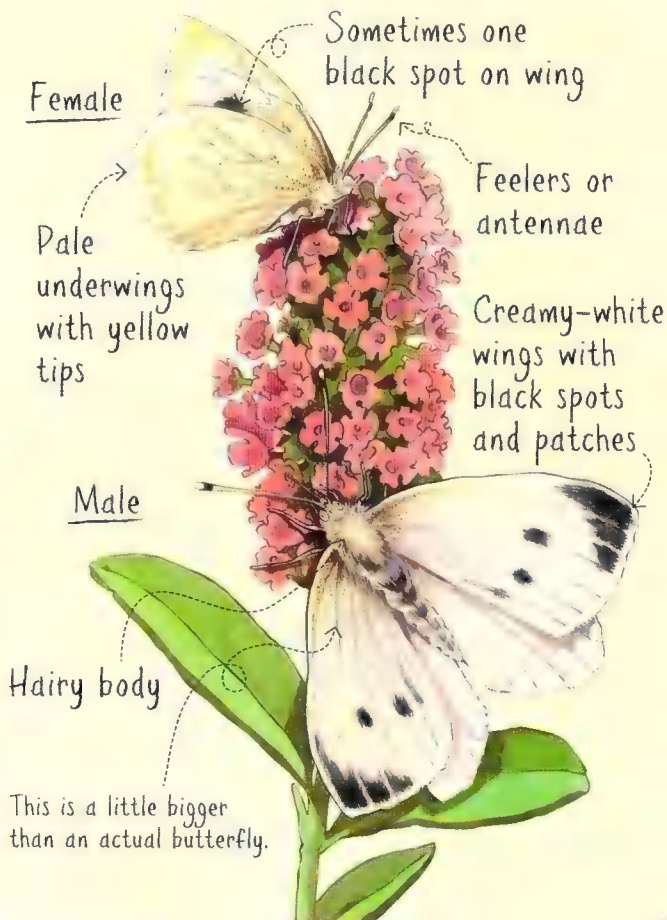
They eat feathers, animal hair, and clothes and carpets.

Clothes moth caterpillars make a tube from what they've eaten to hide from predators.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult clothes moths only live long enough to lay eggs. Most of them don't have mouths, so can't eat.

Cabbage white butterfly





Look for cabbage white butterflies flitting around flowers in summer.

They lay yellow eggs on the bottoms of leaves.

Their caterpillars are green and yellow. They eat leafy, green plants.



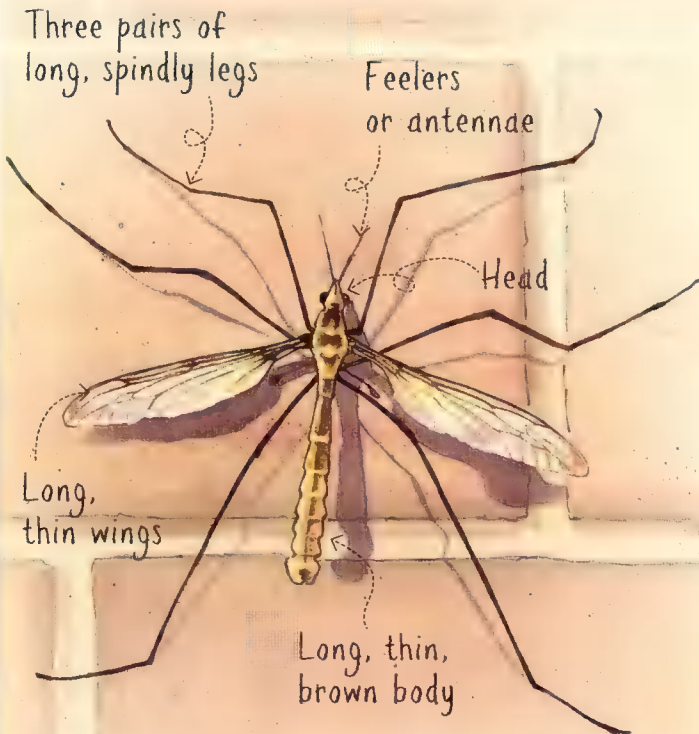
Chrysalis

In winter, each caterpillar wraps itself in a case or chrysalis. Look for chrysalises on fences or tree trunks.



Creepy-crawly fact: Cabbage white butterflies can fly hundreds of miles.

Daddy-long-legs



This is the same size as an actual daddy-long-legs.



Look for daddy-long-legs in late summer. They wobble about in the air as they fly.

If they're indoors, they will fly towards the light.

Their young look like worms and live in the ground. You might see them if you're digging in the garden.



The worms are called leatherjackets because they have a thick, brown, leathery skin.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult daddy-long-legs only live for 2 weeks.

Cricket

This is about four times bigger than an actual cricket.

Very long feelers or antennae

Big eyes

Stripe on head

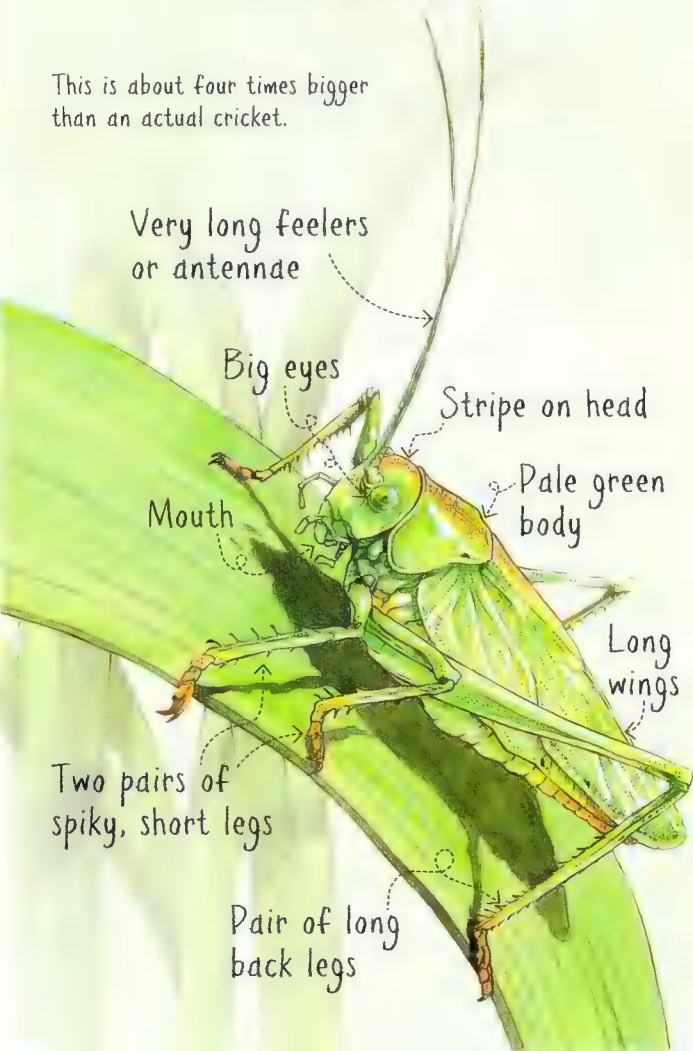
Pale green body

Mouth

Long wings

Two pairs of spiky, short legs

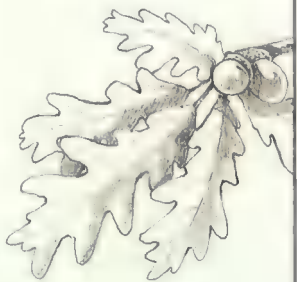
Pair of long back legs





Crickets live in bushes and trees. They come out to feed at night.

Their springy back legs mean that they can jump from one branch to another.



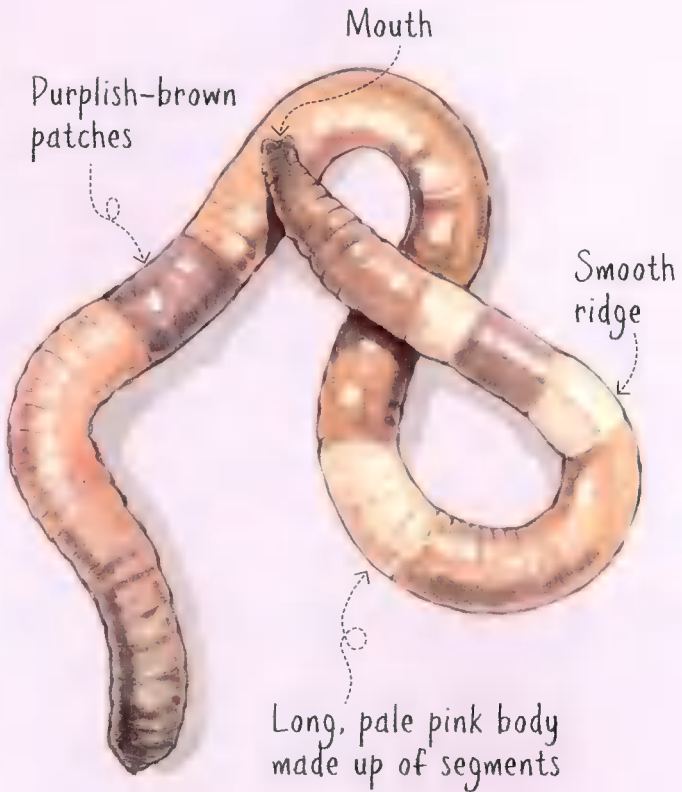
They are attracted to bright lights, so you might see them in your house or on windows.

Some crickets rub their wings together to make a high, chirping noise.



Creepy-crawly fact: Crickets hear through their front legs.

Earthworm



This is the same size as an actual earthworm.



Earthworms live in damp soil.
You can see them when they
burrow up to the surface.

Worms grip onto the soil using tiny
hairs all over their bodies.

They eat rotting plants and leave
behind squiggly droppings called
worm casts.



Their droppings are good for the soil
and help things to grow in it.



Creepy-crawly fact: If the soil gets too dry,
earthworms roll into balls and go into a deep
sleep until it rains again.

Earwig

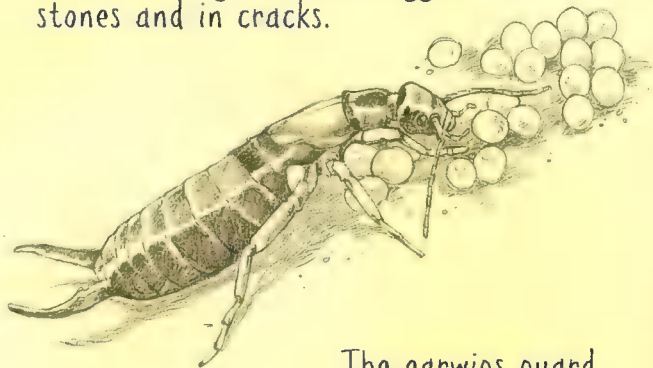




You can find earwigs in damp places in gardens, parks and woods.

They sleep during the day and come out to feed at night. They eat flowers, insects and rotting plants.

Female earwigs lay their eggs under stones and in cracks.



The earwigs guard their young until they're old enough to look after themselves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Earwigs use their pincers to scare away predators.

European black slug

These slugs can also
be orange or brown.

Slimy, bumpy, black body

Eyes

Breathing
hole

Head

Mouth

This is the same size
as an actual slug.





Look for slugs in dark, damp places. They come out to eat at night.

You can tell where a slug has been by the slimy trail it leaves behind.



They feed on plants and rotting things.



To try to stop other animals eating it, a slug rolls into a ball and covers itself in a nasty-tasting liquid.



Creepy-crawly fact: Slugs follow their old slime trails to find food.

Emperor dragonfly



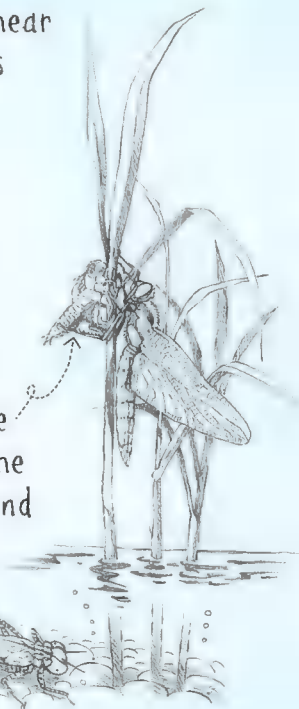


Look for emperor dragonflies swooping over ponds and streams, catching insects.

You might be able to hear their whirring wings as they fly past.

Dragonfly young are called nymphs. They live underwater.

After a few years, the nymph crawls out of the water. Its skin splits and the adult dragonfly climbs out.

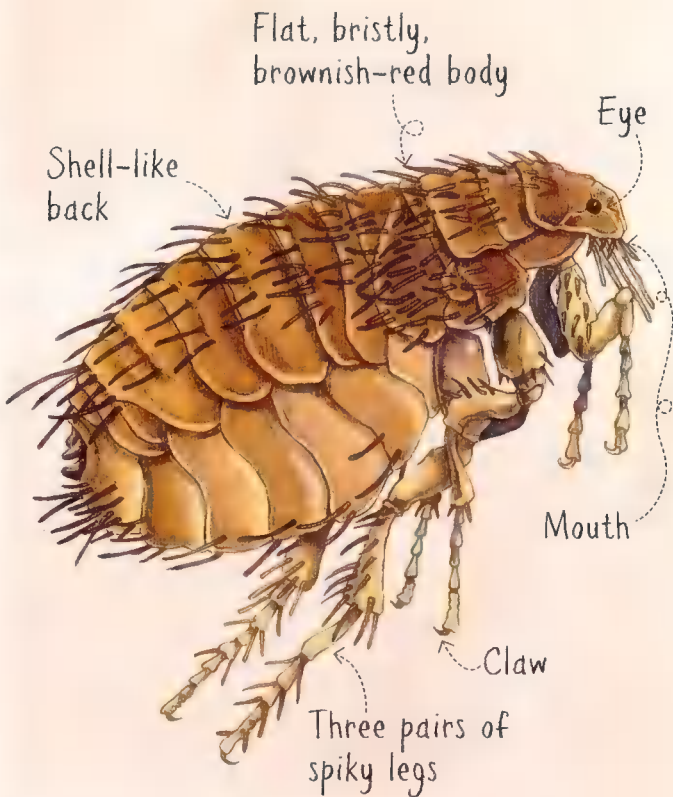


Nymph



Creepy-crawly fact: Male emperor dragonflies spend most of their lives flying. They hardly ever land.

Flea



This is about 40 times bigger than an actual flea.



Fleas are tiny insects that live on animals and sometimes people. They cling on using their spiny claws.

They feed by biting skin, then sucking up the blood.

Fleas have flat bodies and can move around easily between animal hairs.

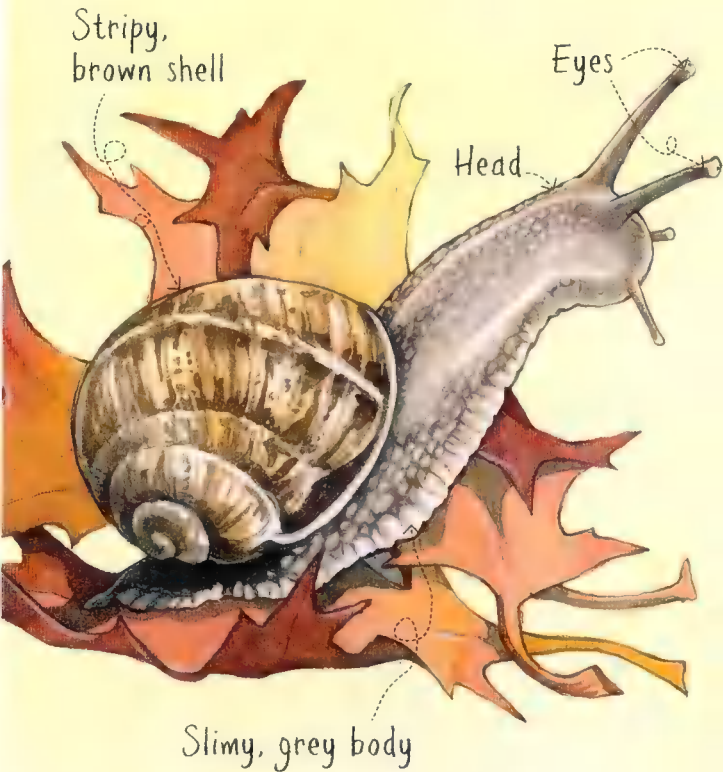


They have springy legs and can jump from one animal to another.



Creepy-crawly fact: Fleas can jump 100 times their own height.

Garden snail



This is a little bigger than
an actual snail.

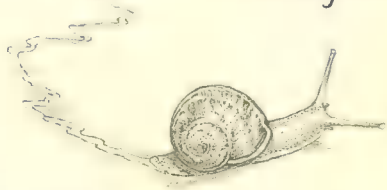


It's easiest to spot snails during the day when it's wet, or on damp ground at night.



You might find snails under rocks and logs, too.

They make lots of slime as they travel. This helps them to slide easily over rough ground.



Snails use their spiky tongues to rip up and eat plants and rotting things.



Creepy-crawly fact: Snails hide inside their shells to protect themselves against predators.

Grasshopper

Thin feelers
or antennae

Big eyes

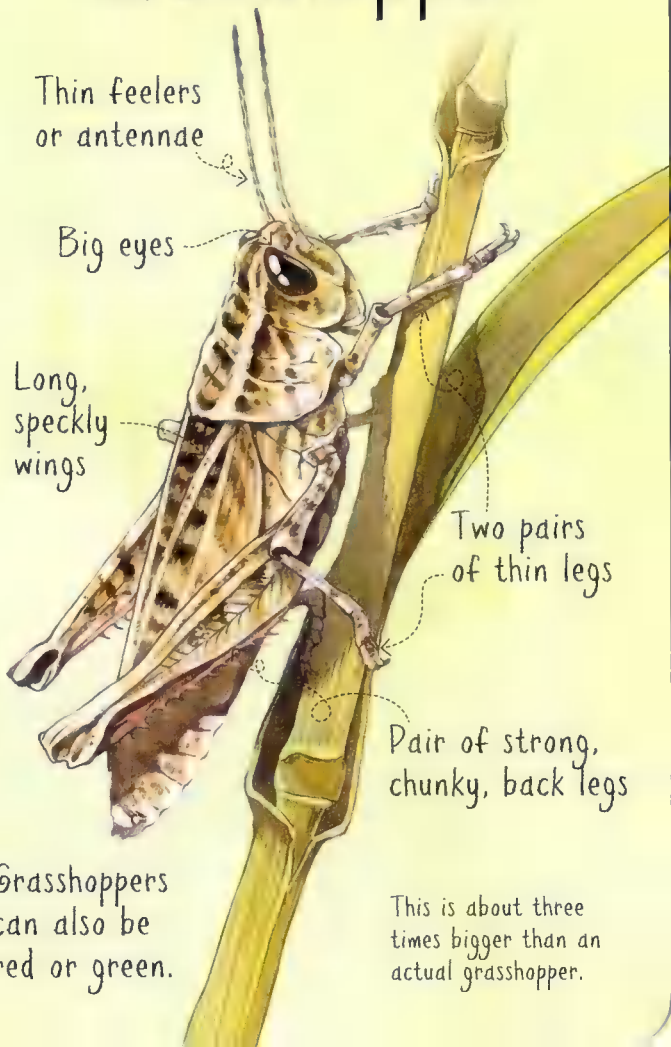
Long,
speckly
wings


Two pairs
of thin legs

Pair of strong,
chunky, back legs

Grasshoppers
can also be
red or green.

This is about three
times bigger than an
actual grasshopper.





You're likely to hear grasshoppers
before you see them.

Listen for the high, chirping 'song'
they make by rubbing their
legs and wings together.

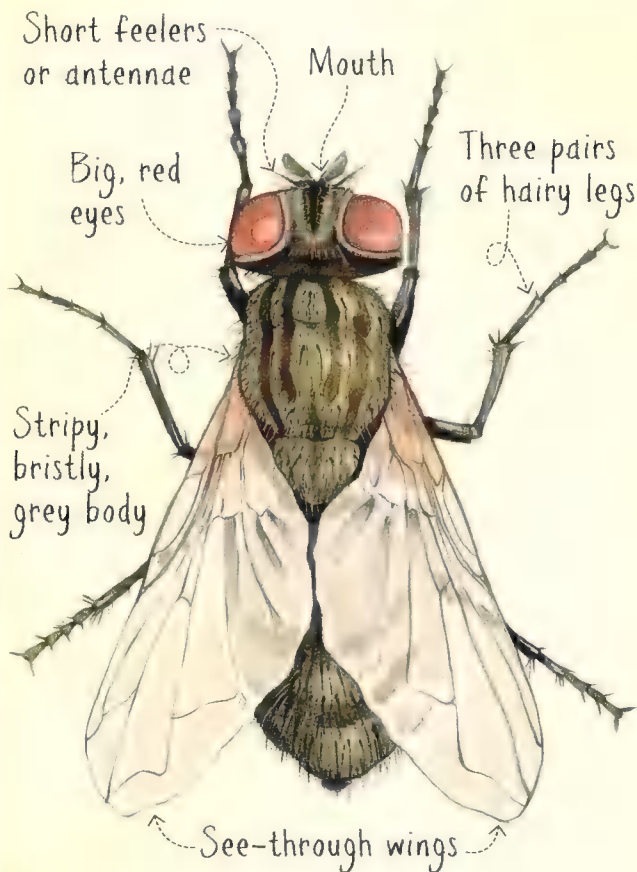


You might see grasshoppers
jumping or flying out of
long grass and bushes in
parks and woods.



Creepy-crawly fact: Grasshoppers can jump up to
20 times their own length.

Housefly



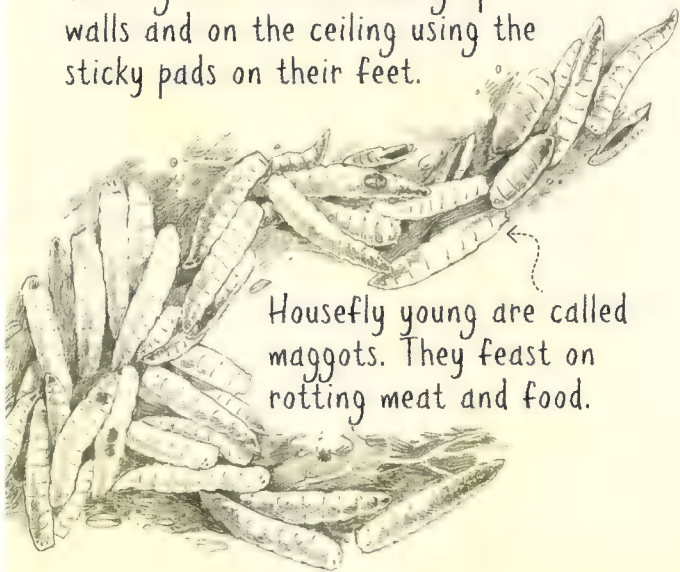
This is about ten times bigger than an actual housefly.



Look for houseflies in summer, buzzing around rotting rubbish looking for food.

They eat liquid food by sucking it up with their spongy mouths.

You might see them walking up walls and on the ceiling using the sticky pads on their feet.

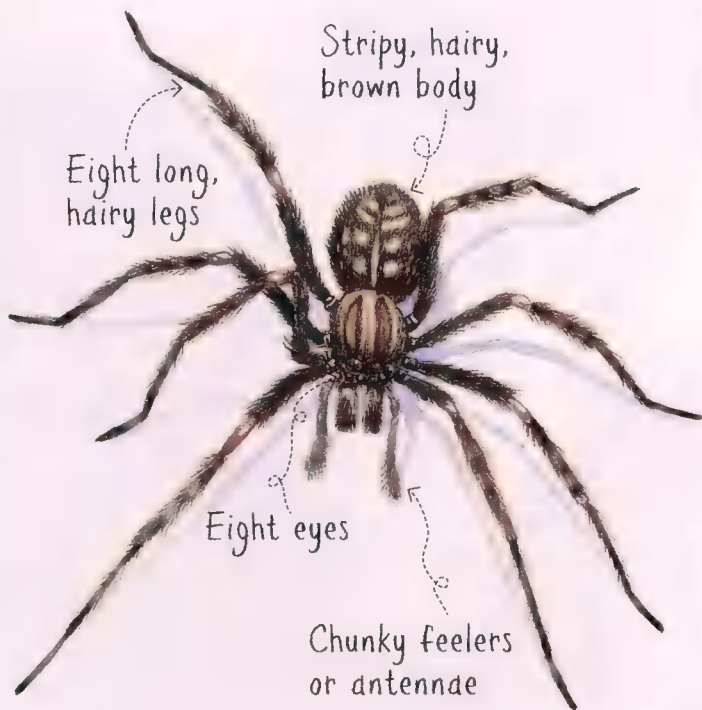


Housefly young are called maggots. They feast on rotting meat and food.



Creepy-crawly fact: Houseflies taste and smell through the hairs on their feet.

House spider



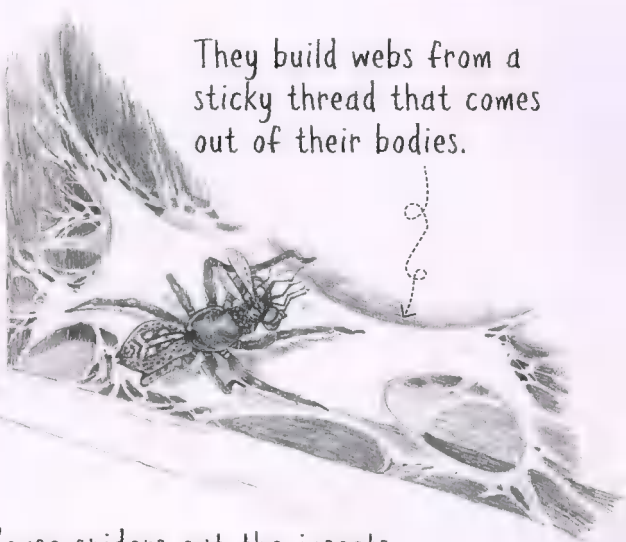
This is about three times bigger than an actual house spider.



House spiders live in warm, dry places, such as inside houses or sheds.

You might see them scuttling quickly across the floor.

They build webs from a sticky thread that comes out of their bodies.



House spiders eat the insects that get stuck in their webs.



Creepy-crawly fact: Male spiders do a dance, by waving their front legs around, to try to attract females.

Honey bee

See-through wings

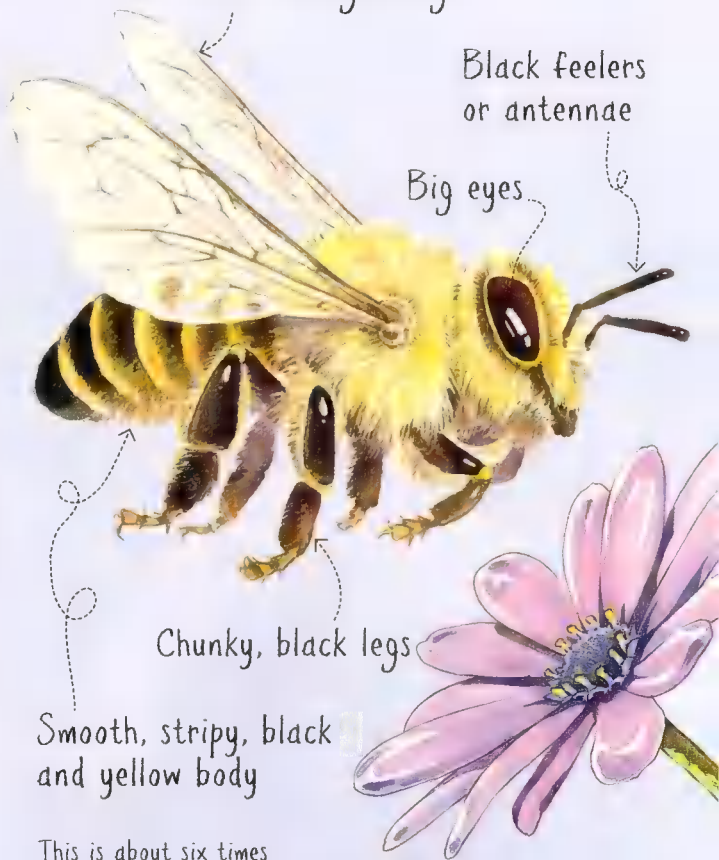
Black feelers
or antennae

Big eyes

Chunky, black legs

Smooth, stripy, black
and yellow body

This is about six times
bigger than an actual honey bee.





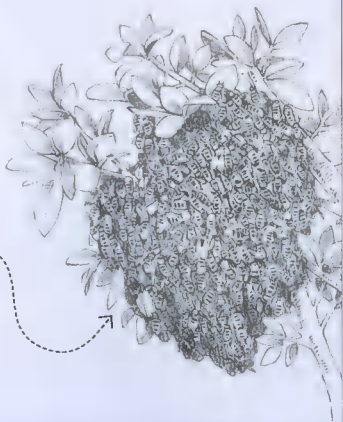
You're most likely to see honey bees in summer, collecting nectar and pollen from flowers.

Honey bees live in big nests that hang from trees or walls.



← They also make nests in man-made boxes, called hives.

Every spring, some honey bees look for new nests. They gather in big groups, called swarms.



Creepy-crawly fact: Bees turn some of the nectar and pollen they collect into honey that people can eat.

Ladybird

Feelers or antennae

Mouth

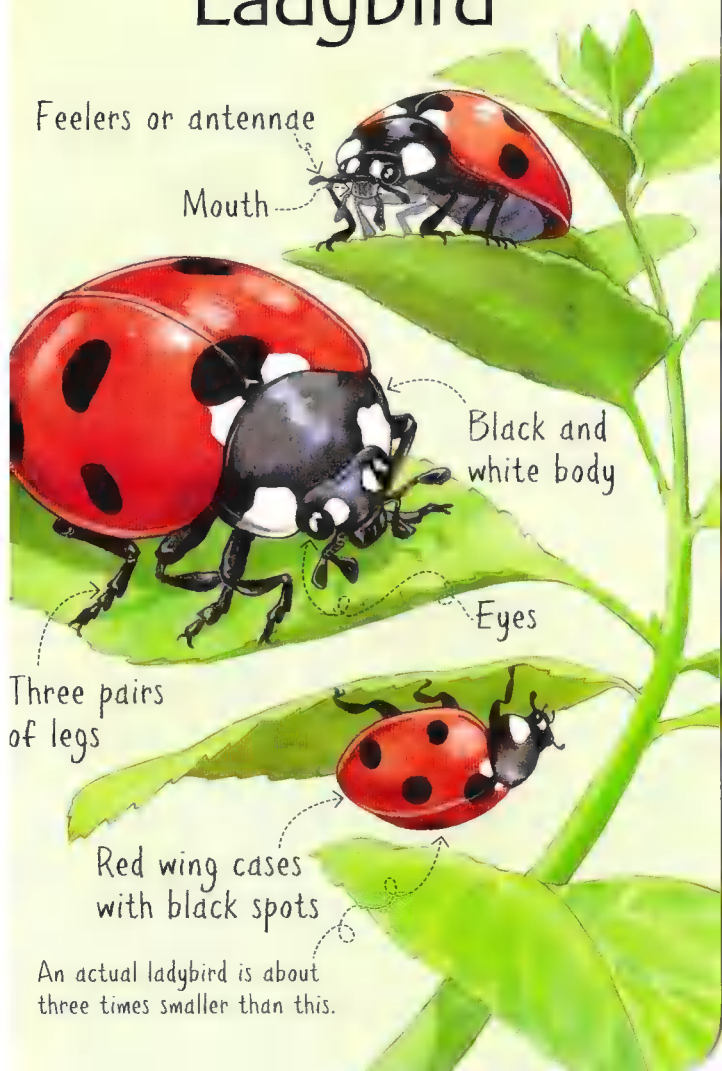
Black and
white body

Eyes

Three pairs
of legs

Red wing cases
with black spots

An actual ladybird is about
three times smaller than this.





You can find ladybirds on plants in gardens and parks. At night, they crawl into little holes to sleep.

Most ladybirds eat small insects called aphids.



Try to spot ladybirds while they're flying.

Different types of ladybirds have different numbers of spots. These are the most common ones.

Two spot



Seven spot

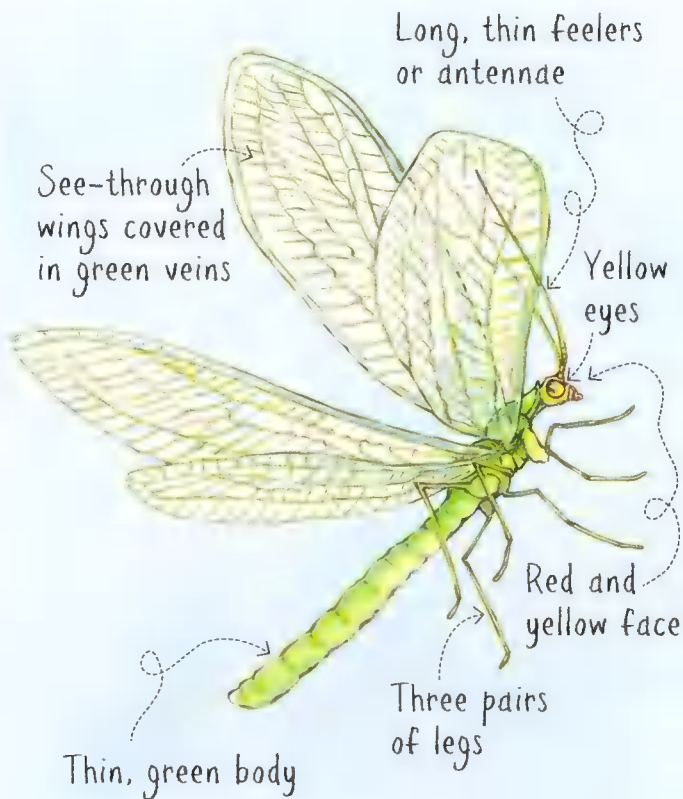


Twenty-two spot



Creepy-crawly fact: When a ladybird is scared, it oozes orange liquid out of its legs.

Lacewing



This is about five times bigger
than an actual lacewing.



You can see lacewings flying around gardens and hedges in spring and summer.

They lay tiny eggs on the undersides of leaves covered in insects, called aphids.



When the young hatch, they feast on the aphids.

Lacewings often hide away during the winter in garden sheds or houses. Their bodies turn brownish-pink.



Creepy-crawly fact: Lacewings' green bodies make them hard to spot on plants. This helps to hide them from predators.

Hoverfly

See-through
wings

Short feelers
or antennae

Bright yellow
and black body

Big eyes

Three pairs of legs

This is about eight times
bigger than an actual hoverfly.





Look for hoverflies in summer,
darting from flower to flower.

They can hover in the
air by flapping their
wings very fast.

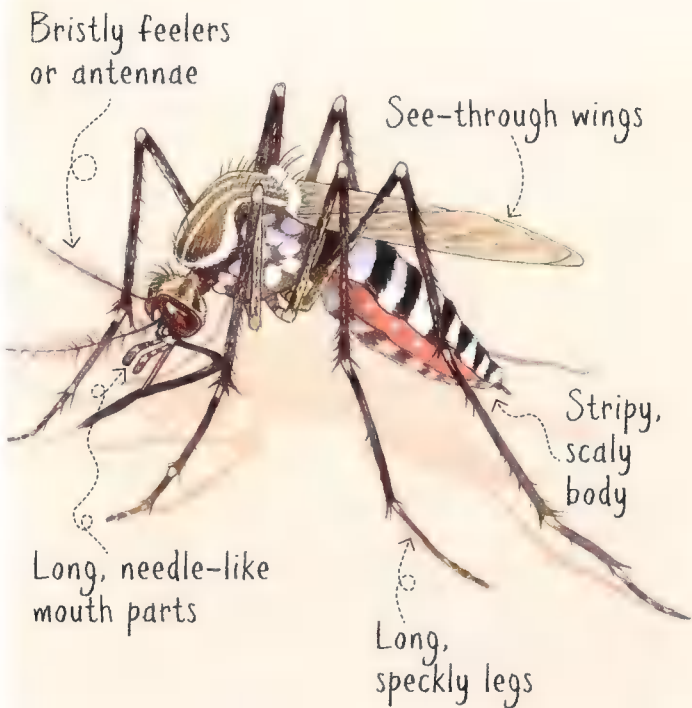


Hoverflies lay their eggs near plants
covered in insects, called aphids.
The young hatch out and
feed on the aphids.



Creepy-crawly fact: Hoverflies look a bit like wasps
but they can't sting.

Mosquito



This is about ten times bigger
than an actual mosquito.

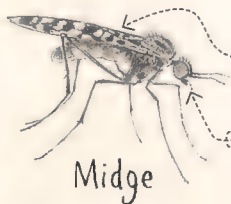


Mosquitoes live near water.
Listen for their high-pitched
whine as they fly.



Young mosquitoes
live underwater.

Insects called midges look a
bit like mosquitoes. It can be
hard to tell them apart.



Spotty wings

Short mouth parts

Midge

Mosquitoes and midges eat nectar.
The females also feed on animal blood.



Creepy-crawly fact: Female mosquitoes and
midges can't lay eggs until they've fed on an
animal's blood.

Peacock butterfly

Red, yellow and dark blue
'eyes' on wings

Long feelers
or antennae

Dark brown
underwings

Brown body

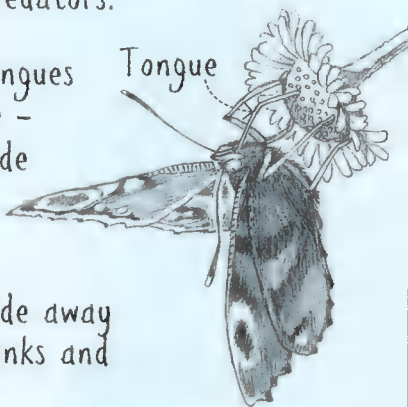
This is about twice
the size of an actual
peacock butterfly.





The markings on peacock butterflies' wings look like eyes. These help to scare away predators.

They use their tongues to suck up nectar - a sweet liquid made by flowers.



In winter, they hide away in hollow tree trunks and old buildings.



Peacock caterpillars are black and spiky.

They eat stinging nettle leaves.



Creepy-crawly fact: When they're hiding in winter, peacock butterflies close their wings. This makes them look like dead leaves.

Shield bug



Red feelers
or antennae

Green, bumpy body
shaped like a shield

Hard, green
wings with dark
brown tips

Small,
green
head

Three pairs of
green and red legs

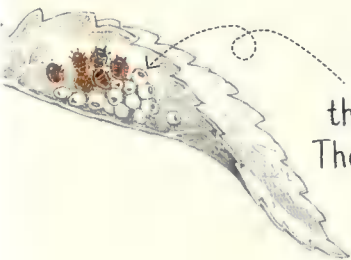
This is about seven
times bigger than an
actual shield bug.



You can see shield bugs crawling over green plants in summer, eating the leaves and sap.



Look for them flying, too.



They lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves. The young, called nymphs, are red and black.

In winter, shield bugs turn greenish-brown and hide away under dead leaves.



Creepy-crawly fact: Shield bugs are sometimes called stink bugs because they make a nasty smell when they're scared.

Stag beetle

Crooked feelers
or antennae

Male

Big jaws

Shiny, black
wing cases

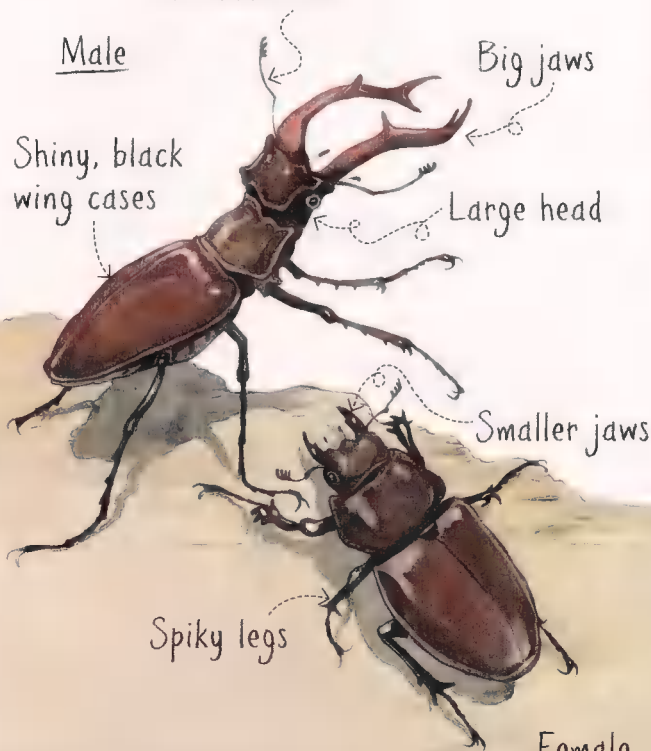
Large head

Smaller jaws

Spiky legs

Female

These are the same size as
actual stag beetles.





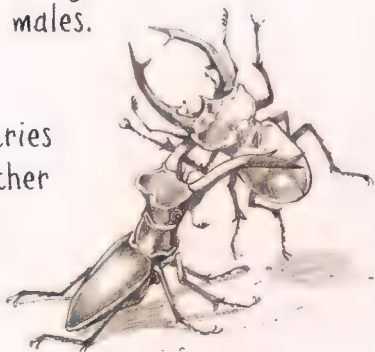
Stag beetles are big beetles.
You can find them in and
around woods.

Try to spot stag beetles
when they're flying in
the late afternoon or
early evening.



Male beetles have big jaws that
look like antlers. They use them
to wrestle other males.

Each beetle tries
to flip the other
one over.



Creepy-crawly fact: Adult stag beetles don't eat.
They only drink plant sap or fruit juice.

Small tortoiseshell butterfly

Small blue patches along wing edges

Bright orange wings with black spots

Furry, brown body

This is about actual size.

Dark brown underwings

Long feelers or antennae

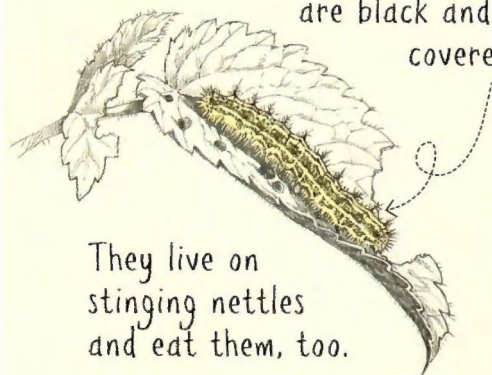




Look for colourful tortoiseshell butterflies on flowers in the summer.

They quickly flap their wings to show flashes of colour. This scares away predators.

Tortoiseshell caterpillars are black and yellow and covered in spikes.



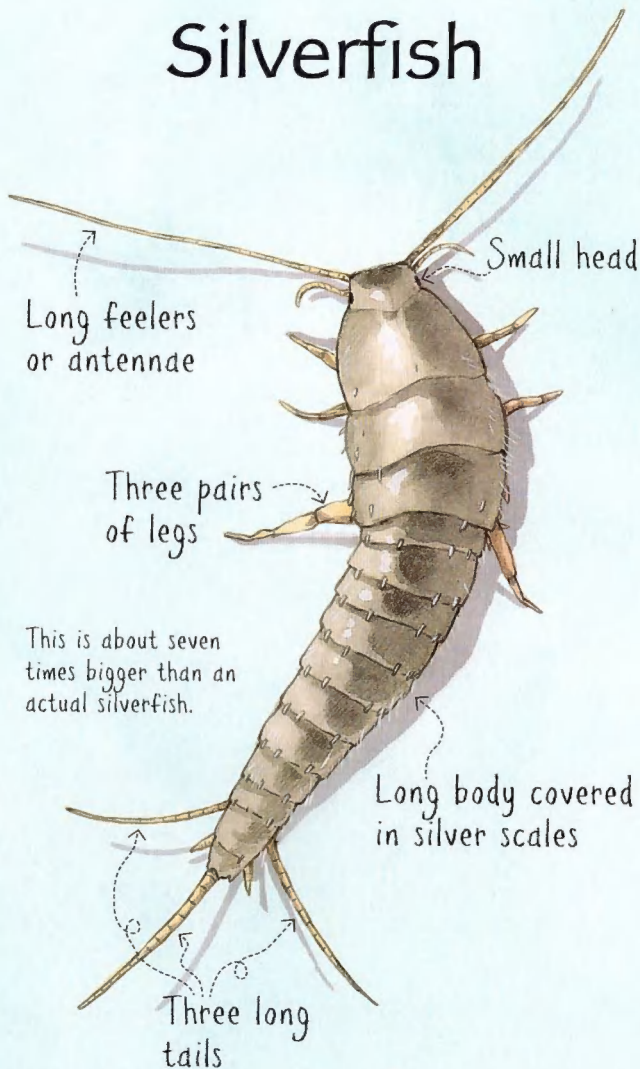
They live on stinging nettles and eat them, too.

In winter, tortoiseshell butterflies hide away in sheds and garages.



Creepy-crawly fact: Tortoiseshell caterpillars spin a web around leaves to shelter themselves from the cold and rain.

Silverfish





Silverfish live indoors in warm, damp places, such as kitchens and bathrooms.

You can see them at night when they look for food. They run very quickly.



They eat all sorts of things - mould, hair, and the glue that holds books together.

Silverfish grow new skin all the time. When the new skin is ready, the old skin falls off.



Creepy-crawly fact: Silverfish can live for months without eating.